(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy propose to adorn its ships, submarines and establishments with new ensigns, flags and pendants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new naval ensign, distinguishing flags and pendants have been introduced from 25th April, 2004. The reason for the change was that the earlier flags had a blue and white colour combination which were not clearly visible from a distance, especially at sea.

Sugar mills lying closed

†323. SHRI ABU ASIMAZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills at Gauri Bazar, Padrauna and Kathkuiyan under Kanpur Sugar Works Ltd. and Ganesh Sugar Mill at Anand Nagar are lying closed for the last many years;

(b) if so, the initiatives being taken by the Ministry regarding payments of salaries to employees working in the said mills and payments of outstanding sugarcane prices to farmers;

(c) whether Government are considering any scheme of running these mills after their renovation; and

(d) if not, initiatives being taken by Government to sell out these mills to private parties?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The shares of British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC) in Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd. (CSWL) were transferred in favour of Gangotri Enterprises Ltd. (GEL) in January 1999 on the directions of BIFR.

Ganesh Sugar Mill is a unit of Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd. (SMMC). SMMC is under liquidation orders of Allahabad High Court on the recommendations of BIFR. Therefore, the sugarcane dues/workers' dues will be liquidated by the Official Liquidator as per the provisions of the Companies Act.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.